

2/16/75

Caption on Folder or File: (Print)

Aides Initial: WJB

(Owen, David Blair)

Cabinet 4 Drawer 2

Folder _____ File X (check one)

First Communication Dated 12/2/52

Last Communication Dated 4/12/60

Approximate Pages 7

Derogatory Information: Yes X No _____ (check one)

Describe Category: i.e. investigative, congressional, prominent persons, administrative, information, policy, personnel, information from other agency, (use miscellaneous category as little as possible): Prominent Persons

Ticklers Only _____ Originals Only _____ Both X

Describe General Content of File or Folder: (use separate page if necessary)

Contains personal background data relative to David Blair Owen [one time
President of Bradley University] ; memo regarding his alleged homosexual tendency
association with who also was reported to be a homosexual
and news clippings relative to David Blair Owen]

David
Hoover
Owen

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. A. B. BELMONT

DATE: April 12, 1960

FROM : MR. G. H. SCATTERDAY

SUBJECT: DAVID BLAIR OWEN
INFORMATION CONCERNING

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/14/85 BY 9457/ST

FOI PA 24542-2

The Director has asked for a summary on D. B. Owen, 51, former President of Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois, who was found strangled to death on Thursday, 4-7-60, in a third-floor room of the Alton Hotel, a walk-up hostelry at 1007 E Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

No investigation has been conducted of Owen by the Bureau who at the time of his demise was in Washington to testify before congressional committees on small boat harbor improvements as a representative of the Greater Santa Cruz (California) Chamber of Commerce. Owen was a graduate of Bradley University (1925) and from 1936 to 1942 was Director of Public Relations and a member of the University's English Department. He served as President from 1946 to 1952 when his resignation for health reasons was accepted by the Board of Trustees.

Bureau files reveal that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the trustees at Bradley University had learned that Owen was a homosexual and were endeavoring to place Owen on an extended leave of absence and then relieve him of his position as President in order to avoid as much publicity as possible. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and furnished unfounded information concerning Communist Party activities and the possible existence of an espionage apparatus at the University, the widespread use of narcotics on the campus, and the purchasing of grades by students.

A preliminary inquiry into these allegations revealed that rumors of Owen's homosexuality were reportedly initiated by Gene Melchoir, a former Bradley basketball star involved in the fixed-games scandal, in order to pressurize the Bradley staff

- 1 - Mr. Parsons
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Name Check: Sec 44860
- 1 - Mr. Wood

W:dm

(5)

291

4-13-60

#67

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Mr. Holmes
Miss Gandy

FILED IN 62-81856-1

UNRECORDED

Chronic Bradley
University basketball
player Gene Melchoir

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont

RE:

DAVID BLAIR OWEN
INFORMATION CONCERNING

basketball scandal
to compel cessation of the investigation. Inquiry also developed that no information had been received by the Bureau's Springfield Division indicating existence of Communist Party activities or operation of an espionage apparatus on the Bradley campus nor had any information been received indicating the widespread use of narcotics or that money would purchase passing grades. A file check of the Springfield Division concerning Owen revealed that the rumors of his homosexuality were not confirmed by Peoria Police Department officials.

(b)(7)(C)
(b)(7)(D)



Reportedly, Owen's indiscretions were not known on the Bradley campus.

The Identification Division records indicate that Owen on 2-17-56 was arrested by the Long Beach, California, Police Department as a drunk. The disposition indicates that the bail was forfeited.

ACTION:

For information.

J. Hoover

W. C. Sullivan

Adams

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. TROTTER

DATE: 4-8-60

FROM : A. K. Bowles

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] - SUSPECT
DAVID BLAIR OWEN - VICTIM
MURDER
IDENTIFICATION MATTER

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
W.C. Sullivan _____
Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

Last night detectives from Homicide Squad, Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D. C., brought to Identification Division the fingerprints of an unknown white male, victim of homicide. Victim was found nude, badly beaten and dying beside a bed in Alton Hotel, 1007 E Street, N. W., about 4:00 P. M. April 7. According to newspaper account attached, victim's face had been so savagely pummeled that positive identification was not immediately possible. He died in Casualty Hospital shortly after he was found by police.

Victim's fingerprints were identified with fingerprints in FBI's Identification Division for one David Blair Owen, FBI #460 152 D. We had 2 sets of fingerprints for Owen -- one for enlistment in the Navy (received in 1942) and the other showing an arrest by Police Department, Long Beach, California, 2-17-56 for "drunk" (disposition -- bail forfeited). In 1956, Owen listed his address as 236 Beaumont, Sacramento, California, and his date and place of birth as 7-27-08 at Peoria, Illinois.

Early this morning a Metropolitan Police officer brought to Identification Division the fingerprints of [REDACTED] suspect in this homicide. [REDACTED] fingerprints were identified with fingerprints in our file for [REDACTED]

Copies of identification records of victim and suspect were immediately furnished to Metropolitan Police.

ACTION:

For information.

Enclosure

AKB:hs

(6)

1 - Mr. DeLoach

REC-98

105-2156-2
APR 12 1960

2.4.5.26. (insert without leave)

R. DeLoach

December 2, 1939

DAVID BLAIR OWEN

BACKGROUND DATA:

David Blair Owen was born at Peoria, Illinois, July 27, 1909, the son of Elizabeth Owen and his wife, the former Florence Blair. His education includes A.B., Bradley University, 1929; Graduate work, University of Iowa, 1931; M.A., Bradley University, 1933. From 1933 to 1942 he was director of public relations and member of the English department at Bradley. He served as a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Naval Reserve on active duty from 1942 to 1945 on the staff of Admiral Nimitz in charge of educational services for the Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas. Since January, 1946, he has been President of Bradley University.

Owen is reported to be the Illinois State Director of the Navy League of the U.S.; member of the boards of directors of the Peoria Association of Commerce, PMA, Peoria Community Chest. He was national president of the Bradley Alumni Association, 1935-1936, and was named as a member of the American Legion and the Peoria Amateur Football and Peoria Players Clubs. He resides at 245 South Glenwood Avenue, Peoria, Illinois. ("Who's Who in America," 1952-53)

He has also been reported as a member of national, regional and state boards and committees in the field of education. He was recently appointed to the U. S. Section on International Cooperation in Education with Senator J. I. Fulbright (D-Arkansas) and Harry C. Byrd, President, University of Maryland. (Springfield teletype; 11-27-52)

CONTACT WITH THE BUREAU:

The late Special Agent Charles A. Brussel, as a clerk in the Director's Office, reported receipt of a letter in March, 1939, from David B. Owen, publicity director of Bradley Polytechnic Institute, Peoria, Illinois, requesting assistance in securing photographs in connection with the visit of the Bureau of Doctor Frederick Hamilton, then President of Bradley. Arrangements were made for photographs of Doctor Hamilton, when he was fingerprinted during the course of his tour. They were furnished Mr. Owen by letter dated March 13, 1939, for release to newspapers as he requested. (24-1-5510-1, 3, 6, 7)

WFD:fjd:slu:mkf

(NOTE: The name David Blair Owen was searched through the cable initial card for the variation Dave and (Mrs. Mrs. Olson, Peoria's Office, advised that no criminal records were found in the files of the Agent Div.)

INDEXED - 51

RECORDED - 1 SE-30

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

(b)(6)
(b)(7)(C)
(b)(7)(D)

[REDACTED]

(Mr. [REDACTED]'s memorandum to
Mr. Tolson, 11-20-32, entitled "Bradley University, etc.")

The Springfield Office advised that a rumor of sexual
persecution in connection with Doctor Owen was encountered several
months ago. At that time a discreet inquiry indicated that the
rumor was believed to have been initiated by Gene Delahore, a
basketball star at Bradley, who had been involved in the fixed-
game scandal, to put pressure on the Bradley staffs to compel
cessation of the investigation. At that time Captain George Earl
and Lieutenant George Johnson, both FBI National Academy graduates,
and Bernard J. Kennedy of the Peoria Police Department, all
concurred in that belief. As recently as October 23, 1932, the
Police Chief John McAllister expressed the same opinion. At the
time of the initial inquiry [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Bradley University, was interviewed under pretext and
expressed the same opinion. (Springfield teletype 11-27-32
"Bradley University, etc.")

MISCELLANEOUS:

Owen has not been the subject of an investigation by the
FBI.

In connection with the case entitled "Known subjects:
slaying of George F. McNear, Jr., President, Toledo, Ohio, and
Western Railroad, March 10, 1927, Construction of Justice, Civil
Rights and Domestic Violence," Doctor David J. Owen, President,
Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois, was interviewed on November 3,
1932. Owen stated that before a basketball game at Bradley on the
night of March 10, 1927, McNear met him in the armory where the
game was played and invited Owen to sit with him. After the half
Owen moved from his usual seat to McNear's box and remained with
him until two or three minutes after the game was over. He was
separated from McNear in the course of their departure; he saw
McNear downstairs a few minutes later and did not know when McNear

actually left the army. Owen stated that McNear never mentioned to him his business or his troubles. Owen's name was not indexed elsewhere in the McNear file. It is recalled that this investigation was closed on authority of the Department. (72-397-243 pg. 40)

The Peoria press was reported to have stated this week that Owen was granted a four-months' leave of absence on account of his health. This information was confirmed by Robert Jamieson, assistant to the President, Bradley University, on November 20, 1931.

Conf. Univ. Board of Trustees official

(b6)
(b7C)
It is noted that [redacted] in casual conversation has always indicated a desire to discharge, or fail to renew the contract of, any faculty member whose loyalty was doubted. He expressed pleasure at the resignation of [redacted] and several years ago he refused to renew the contract of a librarian for loyalty reasons. This is reported by the Springfield Office to have been done under the direction of Doctor Owen.

G. Chapman Caldwell, member of the National Americanism Committee of the American Legion, has frequently commented on the militant attitude of Doctor Owen and his assistant, Jamieson. (Springfield teletype, 11-27-32, entitled "Bradley University, etc.")

Date: 2/16/75

Aides Initial: WJB

Caption on Folder or File: (Print)

LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Cabinet 4 Drawer 2

Folder _____ File X (check one)

First Communication Dated 8/9/50

Last Communication Dated 4/24/58

Approximate Pages 450 (5 vol.)

Derogatory Information: Yes X No _____ (check one)

Describe Category: i.e. investigative, congressional, prominent persons, administrative, information, policy, personnel, information from other agency, (use miscellaneous category as little as possible); Investigative, Congressional, Prominent Persons, Information from other Agency

Tickers Only _____ Originals Only _____ both X

Describe General Content of File or Folder: (use separate page if necessary)

Consists of reports prepared by the Military District, W. D. C., ^(Washington, D.C.) as compiled through informant reports, Agency checks and interviews. a self-admitted homosexual, alleged to an informant of the military that former persons had engaged in homosexual activities. He later retracted this statement. There are no indications the Bureau investigated allegations made by and other prominent relative to the prominent persons.

20

Hoover doc, Loyalty of Govt employees

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☒ For your information:

Deletions per Army and FBI

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

OL 20

Doc 1 + 2 (8 pp)	Doc 53 (21 pp)
Doc 4 (1 p)	Doc 57 (21 pp)
Doc 7 enclosure (4 pp)	Doc 67 (179 pp)
Doc 11 (6 pp)	Doc 68 enclosure (7 pp)
Doc 17 (4 pp)	
Doc 22 enclosure (7 pp)	
Doc 26 enclosure (22 pp)	
Doc 33 (23 pp)	
Doc 35 enclosure (25 pp)	
Doc 38 enclosure (2 pp)	
Docs 42 + 43 (5 pp)	
Docs 45 - 50 (63 pp)	

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 X FOR THIS PAGE X
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2/16/75

Caption on Folder or File: (Print)

Aides Initial: WJB

Special Inquiry, State Dept.

Cabinet 4 Drawer 2

Folder _____ File X (check one)

First Communication Dated 3/18/52

Last Communication Dated 9/11/57

Approximate Pages 59

Derogatory Information: Yes _____ No X (check one)

Describe Category: i.e. investigative, congressional, prominent persons, administrative, information, policy, personnel, information from other agency, (use miscellaneous category as little as possible): Prominent Persons

Xickers Only _____ Originals Only _____ Both X

Describe General Content of File or Folder: (use separate page if necessary)

Primarily contains reports from field offices reflecting investigation conducted on captioned person based on her application for employment with Patricia

Request Request made by State Department and report furnished to that agency.